

a perfect ~~XXXX~~
~~A~~ English Copyright
without weakening
my American Copyright
to the same book. I
have never taken
Professional advice
on the matter, but
I believe that prior
publication is required
by ~~each~~ the law of
each country. Unless
you are informed
exactly on this point,

I will within a few
days take advice
in Boston, & be guided
by that. If you
are informed, I am
content to be ready
to make the journey at
the proper time.

I enclose a note of
one or two Errata for
the Printer of the
New Edition.

Yours with great regard
R. W. Emerson

Mrs Osgood

EMERSON, RALPH WALDO (1803-1882).
Poet and philosopher. Concord.

A.L.S. to James R. Osgood. 18 Aug. 1869.
3p. (double sheet, octavo)

He discusses the possibility of a trip to Canada in order to secure the copyright of a book, and inquires into the exact legal technicalities involved.

The letter probably refers to the new edition of Emerson's Prose Works, published in 1869. Attempt to secure a copyright good in the British Empire came to nothing, however, since the firm of Bell and Daldy brought out a cheap edition before anything could be done. The letter was printed in Letters of Ralph Waldo Emerson, ed. R.L. Rusk. (Columbia Univ. Press, 1939), VI, 82-83; a photostat is in the Columbia University Library, secured in or about 1939 from the Carnegie Book Shop, which owned the letter in that year.

Concord

18 August 1869

My dear Sir,

I do not know but I could waive the perhaps sentimental objection that occurs to me at the suggestion of going to Canada for a few days, provided that I were assured that so doing I could establish a perfect ["right to" cancelled] English copyright without weakening my American copyright to the same book.

I have never taken professional advice ["in" cancelled] on the matter, but I believe that prior publication is required by ["each" cancelled] the law of each country. Unless you are informed exactly on this point, I will within a few days take advice in Boston, & be guided by that. If you are informed, I am content to be ready to make the journey at the proper time.

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Yours with great regard,

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